

# Dynamics of Subjective Risk Premia

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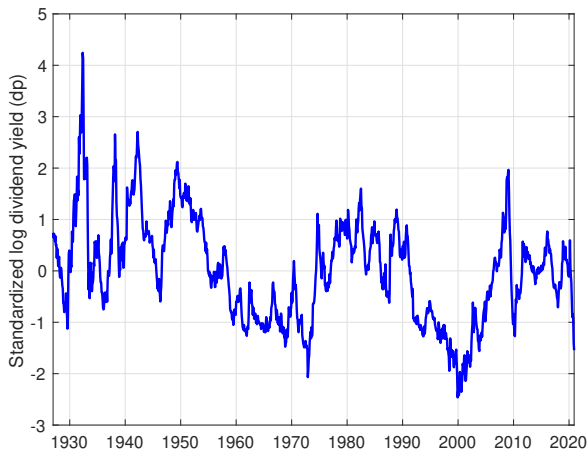
<sup>1</sup>University of Chicago, NBER, CEPR, and CESifo

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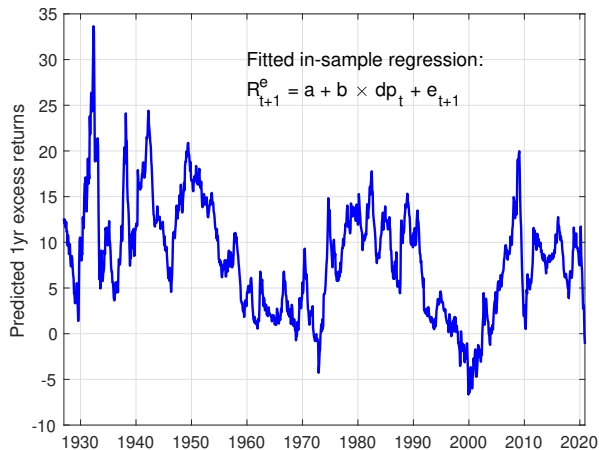
# Asset price cycles

Example: U.S. stock market dividend yield



# Time-variation in objective risk premia

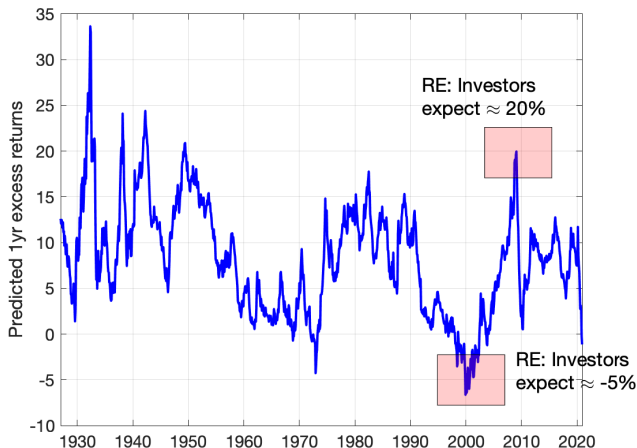
Objective risk premia = as estimated by econometrician ex post



# Rational expectations models: Subjective = objective

RE: Investors' subj. perception of risk premia = obj. risk premia

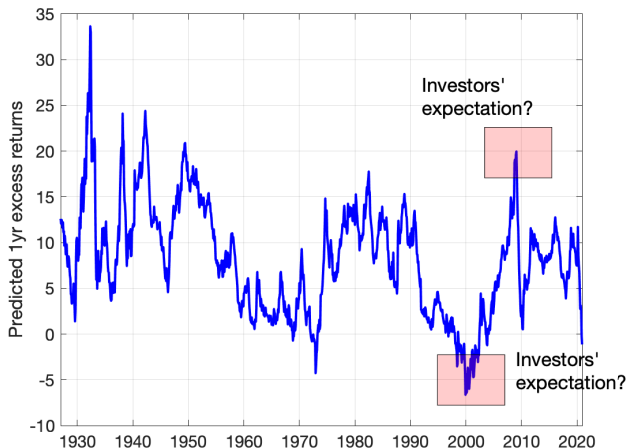
- ▶ Asset price cycles attributed to varying risk or risk aversion
- ▶ Example: Campbell-Cochrane, Bansal-Yaron models



# Actual subjective risk premia?

Subjective  $\neq$  objective e.g., under

- ▶ rational learning with parameter and/or model uncertainty
- ▶ adaptive learning
- ▶ diagnostic expectations



# Subjective risk premium dynamics

- ▶ We extract subjective risk premia from price forecasts of professionals and individuals
  - ▶ Stock market
  - ▶ Treasury bond market
  - ▶ Foreign exchange
  - ▶ Commodity futures

# Subjective risk premium dynamics

- ▶ We extract subjective risk premia from price forecasts of professionals and individuals
  - ▶ Stock market
  - ▶ Treasury bond market
  - ▶ Foreign exchange
  - ▶ Commodity futures
  
- ▶ We contrast dynamics of
  - ▶ objective risk premia
  - ▶ subjective risk premiawith regards to business and asset price cycle variables

## Related literature

- ▶ Piazzesi et al. (2015): Subjective bond risk premia less cyclical than predictive regression forecasts  
**Here:** more asset classes, state variables, market participants; comparison with OOS forecasts



## Related literature

- ▶ Piazzesi et al. (2015): Subjective bond risk premia less cyclical than predictive regression forecasts  
**Here:** more asset classes, state variables, market participants; comparison with OOS forecasts
- ▶ Debate about differences in cyclicalities of subjective equity premia of different groups
  - ▶ Amromin and Sharpe (2013), Greenwood and Shleifer (2014): individuals, CFOs, **procyclical** w.r.t. valuation ratios and past returns
  - ▶ Dahlquist and Ibert (2021), Wang (2021): professional forecasters, **countercyclical** w.r.t. valuation ratios**Here:** Subjective risk premia of both groups lack cyclicalities relative to objective risk premia

# Roadmap

1. Cyclicalty of objective and subjective risk premia
  - ▶ Stock market
  - ▶ Bond market
  - ▶ Currencies
  - ▶ Commodity futures
2. Comparison with out-of-sample forecasts
3. Subjective risk-return tradeoff
4. Conclusion

# General approach

- ▶ Data
  - ▶ Predictor variable  $x_t$ :  
standard predictors + business cycle indicators
  - ▶ Realized excess returns  $R_{t+1}^e$
  - ▶ Subjective risk premium  $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t R_{t+1}^e$  from survey data

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- ▶ **Subjective** risk premium dynamics

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- ▶ **Subjective** risk premium dynamics

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t R_{t+1}^e = \tilde{a} + \tilde{b}x_t + u_t$$

- ▶ Compare magnitudes  $b$  vs.  $\tilde{b}$ 
  - ▶ Under RE:  $b \approx \tilde{b}$

# Stock market: Returns and expectations data

	Frequency	Sample Period	Mean	S.D.
Realized	Monthly	1926/12–2020/12	8.15	21.15
NX	Quarterly	1972Q3–2021Q2	5.95	1.98
CFO	Quarterly	2000Q3–2021Q2	3.98	1.75
Livingston	Semi-annually	1952Q2–2020Q4	4.09	5.86

- ▶ Survey data:  $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t R_{t+1}$  at one-year horizon
  - ▶ Nagel and Xu (2022): individual investor expectations from UBS/Gallup, Conference Board, Michigan survey, and a few others
  - ▶ Graham-Harvey CFO survey
  - ▶ Livingston Professional Forecasters Survey

# Stock market: Returns and expectations data

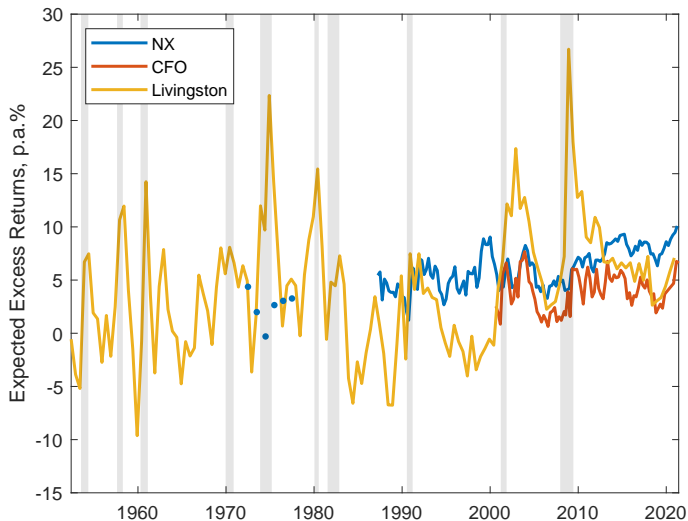
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  - ▶ Livingston Professional Forecasters Survey
- ▶ Subjective risk premium using one-year Treasury yield

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t R_{t+1}^e = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t R_{t+1} - R_{f,t}$$



# Stock market excess return expectations: Individuals, CFOs, professionals



# Stock market: Predictive regressions for realized excess returns

	Asset-Specific Predictors							
	CAY		D/P	EXPD		NTIS		
Coeff	3.24	3.71	6.01	5.83	-6.44	-7.19	-4.87	-4.93
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.08)	(0.10)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.16)	(0.16)
$R_{past}^e$		-3.32		0.36		-3.70		-1.47
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.12)		(0.71)		(0.09)		(0.51)
Adj. $R^2$	0.03	0.06	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.11	0.06	0.06
N	272	272	1117	1117	377	373	1117	1117

- ▶ All predictors standardized to unit standard deviations in full sample period
- ▶ Predictive regressions are bootstrap bias-adjusted

# Stock market: Subjective risk premium regressions

		Asset-Specific Predictors							
		CAY		D/P		EXPD		NTIS	
<b>NX</b>	Coeff	-0.75	-0.75	-0.24	-0.00	0.17	0.20	-0.36	-0.55
	( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.52)	(1.00)	(0.63)	(0.54)	(0.48)	(0.23)
	$R_{past}^e$		0.87		0.87		0.88		0.98
	( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.01)		(0.02)		(0.00)		(0.00)
	Adj. $R^2$	0.21	0.33	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.12	0.01	0.16
N	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	
<b>CFO</b>	Coeff	-0.23	-0.15	-0.47	-0.41	-0.94	-0.92	0.74	0.67
	( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.64)	(0.76)	(0.32)	(0.31)	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.03)
	$R_{past}^e$		0.35		0.30		0.16		0.20
	( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.18)		(0.29)		(0.60)		(0.48)
	Adj. $R^2$	-0.00	0.01	0.04	0.05	0.35	0.34	0.08	0.07
N	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	
<b>Liv.</b>	Coeff	-1.70	-1.42	1.01	0.42	-0.37	-0.59	-1.05	-0.88
	( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.48)	(0.73)	(0.40)	(0.17)	(0.43)	(0.34)
	$R_{past}^e$		-2.70		-2.78		-2.94		-2.83
	( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.02)		(0.01)		(0.01)		(0.01)
	Adj. $R^2$	0.06	0.17	0.01	0.13	-0.00	0.14	0.01	0.14
N	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	

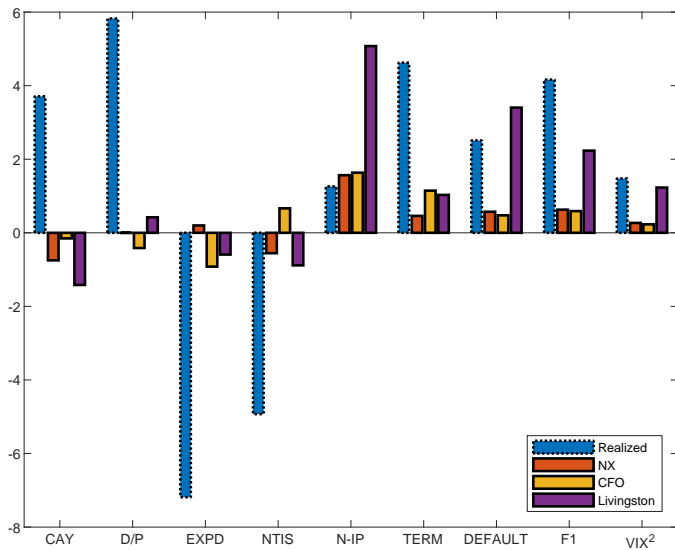
# Stock market: Predictive regressions for realized excess returns

	Business-Cycle Indicators									
	N-IP		TERM		DEFAULT		F1		VIX <sup>2</sup>	
Coeff	1.55	1.26	4.40	4.62	2.84	2.51	4.54	4.16	1.82	1.48
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.51)	(0.49)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.00)	(0.04)	(0.31)	(0.39)
$R_{past}^e$		-1.23		-1.39		-0.55		-0.65		-1.24
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.74)		(0.55)		(0.91)		(0.69)		(0.62)
Adj. $R^2$	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00
N	1129	1117	1129	1117	1129	1117	717	717	1129	1117

# Stock market: Subjective risk premium regressions

		Business-Cycle Indicators									
		N-IP		TERM		DEFAULT		F1		VIX <sup>2</sup>	
<b>NX</b>	Coeff	0.98	1.57	0.44	0.46	-0.30	0.57	0.15	0.63	-0.01	0.27
	( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.17)	(0.01)	(0.20)	(0.18)	(0.35)	(0.13)	(0.68)	(0.08)	(0.95)	(0.14)
	$R_{past}^e$		0.88		1.07		1.13		1.13		
	( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.00)		(0.00)		(0.00)		(0.00)		(0.01)
	Adj. $R^2$	0.04	0.23	0.04	0.16	-0.00	0.13	-0.00	0.16	-0.01	0.15
N	143	142	143	142	143	142	142	142	142	143	142
<b>CFO</b>	Coeff	0.32	1.64	1.12	1.15	-0.15	0.47	0.08	0.59	0.01	0.23
	( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.55)	(0.02)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.60)	(0.18)	(0.68)	(0.07)	(0.92)	(0.16)
	$R_{past}^e$		0.89		0.39		0.63		0.85		0.73
	( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.01)		(0.08)		(0.08)		(0.03)		(0.05)
	Adj. $R^2$	-0.01	0.12	0.37	0.44	-0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.06	-0.01	0.04
N	79	77	79	77	79	77	77	77	77	79	77
<b>Liv.</b>	Coeff	5.62	5.08	1.06	1.03	4.18	3.41	2.67	2.23	1.65	1.23
	( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.38)	(0.37)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.02)
	$R_{past}^e$		-2.28		-2.87		-1.79		-1.67		-2.23
	( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.01)		(0.01)		(0.05)		(0.08)		(0.06)
	Adj. $R^2$	0.27	0.35	0.03	0.16	0.22	0.26	0.23	0.26	0.13	0.20
N	138	138	138	138	138	138	122	122	138	138	

# Stock market: Summary



Magnitude of Slope Coefficients

# Treasury bond market: Returns and expectations data

	Frequency	Sample Period	Mean	S.D.
Realized	Monthly	1952/03–2020/12	1.32	5.08
BCFF	Monthly	1988/01–2020/12	-0.76	1.70

- ▶ Extract return expectations from yield forecasts
  - ▶ Par yield forecasts for 6m, 1y, 2y, 5y, and 10y bond maturity yields from current quarter to several quarters ahead
  - ▶ Fit a Nelson-Siegel term structure model to these forecasts period-by-period
  - ▶ Bootstrap zero-coupon yield forecasts from these par yield forecasts
  - ▶ Extract expected excess return forecasts from zero-coupon yield forecasts
  
- ▶ Form portfolio expected return by taking equal-weighted average across maturities

# Treasury bond market: Asset Class-Specific Return Predictors

- ▶ LN: macro factor from Ludvigson and Ng (2009)
- ▶ CYCLE: cycle factor from Cieslak and Povala (2015).

Standardized to have unit standard deviations in the full sample period starting from 1952.



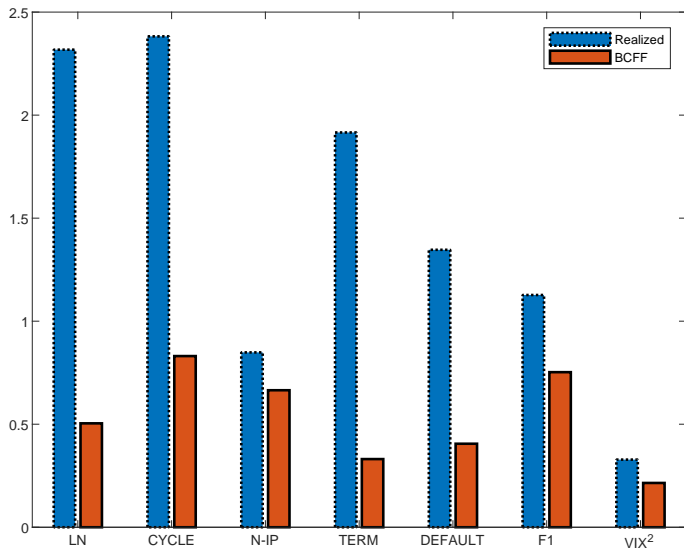
# Treasury bond market: Realized and subjective premia

	Asset-Specific Predictors			
	LN		CYCLE	
<b>A. Realized</b>				
Coeff	1.94	2.32	2.29	2.38
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.02)
$R_{past}^e$		-0.85		-0.37
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.20)		(0.79)
Adj. $R^2$	0.14	0.16	0.24	0.24
N	717	717	578	578
<b>B. BCFF</b>				
Coeff	0.37	0.50	0.83	0.83
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.16)	(0.05)	(0.00)	(0.00)
$R_{past}^e$		-0.35		0.02
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.08)		(0.90)
Adj. $R^2$	0.03	0.05	0.23	0.22
N	397	397	397	397

# Treasury bond market: Realized and subjective premia

	Business-Cycle Indicators									
	N-IP		TERM		DEFAULT		F1		VIX <sup>2</sup>	
<b>A. Realized</b>										
Coeff	0.75	0.85	1.48	1.92	1.36	1.35	1.08	1.13	0.30	0.33
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.61)	(0.60)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.04)	(0.07)	(0.22)	(0.20)
$R_{past}^e$		-0.12		-0.94		-0.13		-0.10		0.02
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.84)		(0.08)		(0.73)		(0.77)		(0.88)
Adj. $R^2$	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
N	826	814	826	814	826	814	717	717	826	814
<b>B. BCFF</b>										
Coeff	0.54	0.67	0.30	0.33	0.30	0.41	0.57	0.75	0.17	0.22
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.31)	(0.22)	(0.15)	(0.11)	(0.47)	(0.35)	(0.02)	(0.00)	(0.13)	(0.07)
$R_{past}^e$		-0.25		-0.22		-0.24		-0.44		-0.28
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.27)		(0.26)		(0.32)		(0.06)		(0.24)
Adj. $R^2$	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.07	0.11	0.02	0.04
N	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397

# Treasury bond market: Summary



Magnitude of Slope Coefficients

# Foreign exchange market: Returns and expectations data

	Frequency	Sample Period	Mean	S.D.
Realized	Monthly	1984/10–2021/06	1.78	9.76
CE & FX4casts	Monthly	1986/08–2021/06	0.50	3.16

- ▶ Extract return expectations from spot rate forecasts and forward rates
  - ▶ Focus on returns of an equal-weighted developed markets currency portfolio
    - ▶ AUD, CAN, DKK, DEM/EUR, JPY, NZD, NOK, SEK, CHF, GBP
- from perspective of a U.S. investor

# Foreign exchange market: Asset Class-Specific Return Predictors

- ▶ Forward discount for each currency

$$FD_t \equiv \frac{F_t}{S_t} - 1,$$

averaged across all currencies as in Lustig et al. (2014).

Standardized to have unit standard deviations in the full sample period starting from 1984.

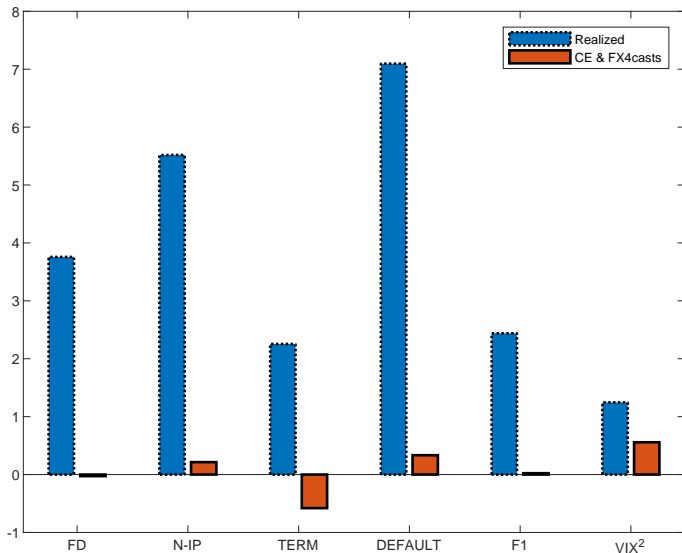
# Foreign exchange market: Realized and subjective premia

	Asset-Specific Predictors	
	Avg. FD	
<b>A. Realized</b>		
Coeff	3.75	3.79
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.03)	(0.08)
$R_{past}^e$		-1.23
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.42)
Adj. $R^2$	0.15	0.13
N	442	430
<b>B. CE &amp; FX4casts</b>		
Coeff	-0.19	0.01
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.75)	(0.99)
$R_{past}^e$		-0.41
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.54)
Adj. $R^2$	0.00	0.01
N	419	419

# Foreign exchange market: Realized and subjective premia

	Business-Cycle Indicators									
	N-IP		TERM		DEFAULT		F1		VIX <sup>2</sup>	
<b>A. Realized</b>										
Coeff	6.66	5.55	1.99	2.24	5.99	7.05	2.65	2.50	1.44	1.24
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.04)	(0.10)	(0.27)	(0.29)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.14)	(0.03)	(0.04)
$R_{past}^e$		1.03		-0.12		0.50		0.76		0.75
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.62)		(0.97)		(0.67)		(0.69)		(0.66)
Adj. $R^2$	0.10	0.07	0.03	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.04
N	442	430	442	430	442	430	442	430	442	430
<b>B. CE &amp; FX4casts</b>										
Coeff	0.27	0.10	-0.68	-0.62	0.27	0.23	0.06	-0.03	0.56	0.53
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.74)	(0.91)	(0.24)	(0.25)	(0.69)	(0.77)	(0.89)	(0.94)	(0.10)	(0.13)
$R_{past}^e$	-0.40		-0.20		-0.40		-0.43		-0.25	
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.57)		(0.76)		(0.57)		(0.54)		(0.71)	
Adj. $R^2$	-0.00	0.01	0.04	0.04	-0.00	0.01	-0.00	0.01	0.07	0.07
N	419	419	419	419	419	419	414	414	419	419

# Foreign exchange market: Summary



Magnitude of Slope Coefficients



# Commodity futures market: Returns and expectations data

	Frequency	Sample Period	Mean	S.D.
Realized, Metals	Monthly	1978/09–2021/06	1.53	25.54
CE, Metals	Monthly	1995/08–2021/06	0.70	5.67
Realized, Oil	Monthly	1984/12–2021/06	8.49	33.68
CE, Oil	Monthly	1995/08–2021/06	2.46	9.70

- ▶ Focus on commodities with the longest history and highest coverage in CE:
  - ▶ Energy: Crude Oil (WTI)
  - ▶ Metals: Gold, Silver, Aluminum, and Copper
- ▶ Extract return expectations from spot price forecasts and futures prices

# Commodities futures market: Asset Class-Specific Return Predictors

- ▶ One-year futures basis averaged across commodities

$$Basis_t \equiv \frac{F_t}{S_t} - 1,$$

- ▶ One-year open interest (in \$) growth

Averaged across commodities (for metals) and standardized to have unit standard deviations in the full sample period starting from 1978 (metals) and 1984 (oil).

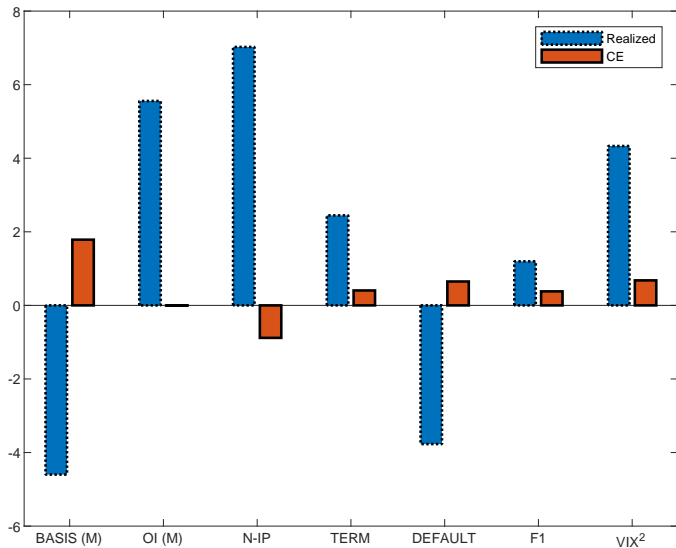
# Metal futures: Realized and subjective premia

	Asset-Specific Predictors			
	Basis		OI	
<b>A. Realized</b>				
Coeff	-5.86	-4.57	7.45	5.51
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.20)	(0.31)	(0.11)	(0.19)
$R_{past}^e$		4.50		3.61
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.34)		(0.81)
Adj. $R^2$	0.06	0.09	0.09	0.09
N	516	504	441	441
<b>B. CE</b>				
Coeff	7.27	1.79	-2.22	-0.01
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.02)	(0.43)	(0.01)	(0.99)
$R_{past}^e$		-3.83		-4.12
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.00)		(0.00)
Adj. $R^2$	0.12	0.35	0.13	0.34
N	150	150	150	150

# Metal futures: Realized and subjective premia

	Business-Cycle Indicators									
	N-IP		TERM		DEFAULT		F1		VIX <sup>2</sup>	
<b>A. Realized</b>										
Coeff	5.91	7.03	2.33	2.48	-5.19	-3.78	-0.88	1.24	3.80	4.31
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.55)	(0.43)	(0.75)	(0.64)	(0.69)	(0.86)	(0.80)	(0.96)	(0.06)	(0.03)
$R_{past}^e$		5.68		5.98		4.58		5.51		6.10
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.27)		(0.20)		(0.33)		(0.27)		(0.13)
Adj. $R^2$	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.02	-0.00	0.02	0.03	0.07
N	516	504	516	504	516	504	516	504	516	504
<b>B. CE</b>										
Coeff	-0.05	-0.89	0.47	0.41	2.28	0.65	1.24	0.38	1.09	0.68
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.97)	(0.52)	(0.52)	(0.62)	(0.28)	(0.71)	(0.32)	(0.72)	(0.05)	(0.20)
$R_{past}^e$		-4.19		-4.12		-4.01		-3.83		-3.86
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.00)		(0.00)		(0.00)		(0.00)		(0.00)
Adj. $R^2$	-0.01	0.35	-0.00	0.35	0.04	0.35	0.02	0.30	0.08	0.38
N	150	150	150	150	150	150	145	145	150	150

# Metals futures: Summary



Magnitude of Slope Coefficients

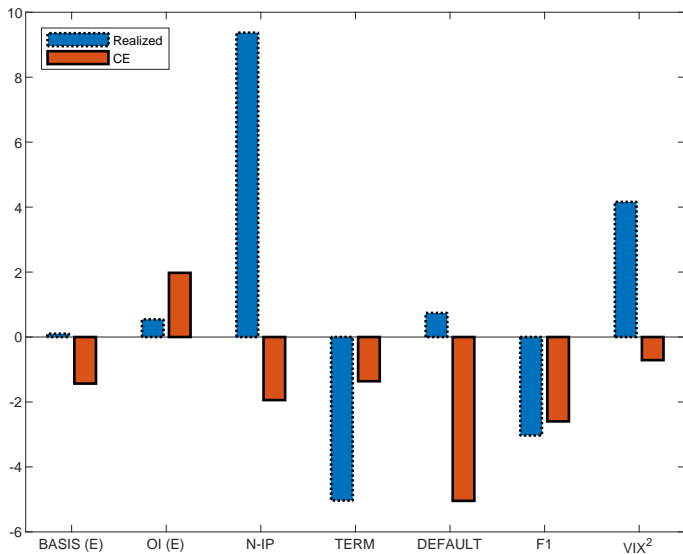
# Oil futures: Realized and subjective premia

	Asset-Specific Predictors			
	Basis		OI	
<b>A. Realized</b>				
Coeff	1.74	0.24	-0.71	0.45
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.81)	(0.90)	(0.95)	(0.58)
$R_{past}^e$		-1.38		-2.59
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.67)		(0.55)
Adj. $R^2$	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	0.00
N	439	427	426	426
<b>B. CE</b>				
Coeff	2.46	-1.43	-3.61	1.98
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.04)	(0.36)	(0.13)	(0.38)
$R_{past}^e$		-6.47		-7.143
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.01)		(0.00)
Adj. $R^2$	0.07	0.33	0.14	0.33
N	150	150	150	150

# Oil futures: Realized and subjective premia

	Business-Cycle Indicators									
	N-IP		TERM		DEFAULT		F1		VIX <sup>2</sup>	
<b>A. Realized</b>										
Coeff	10.26	9.32	-4.46	-5.16	0.58	0.66	-0.47	-2.98	4.05	4.18
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.21)	(0.48)	(0.53)	(0.57)	(0.71)	(0.81)	(0.84)	(0.51)	(0.25)	(0.33)
$R_{past}^e$		-0.66		-2.44		-2.19		-2.52		-0.51
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.77)		(0.57)		(0.67)		(0.55)		(0.75)
Adj. $R^2$	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02
N	439	427	439	427	439	427	439	427	439	427
<b>B. CE</b>										
Coeff	3.82	-1.94	-1.73	-1.36	0.19	-5.05	0.22	-2.60	0.52	-0.71
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.23)	(0.55)	(0.35)	(0.41)	(0.95)	(0.00)	(0.92)	(0.19)	(0.52)	(0.29)
$R_{past}^e$	-5.93		-5.41		-6.60		-7.24		-5.83	
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.01)		(0.00)		(0.00)		(0.00)		(0.01)	
Adj. $R^2$	0.03	0.32	0.01	0.32	-0.01	0.38	-0.01	0.43	0.00	0.32
N	150	150	150	150	150	150	145	145	150	150

# Oil futures: Summary



Magnitude of Slope Coefficients



## Some variations and summary: Ratios

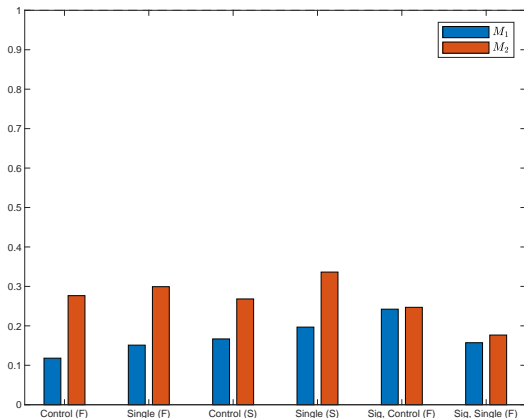
- ▶ For each survey, we calculate the following two ratios:

$$M_1 \equiv \frac{\sum_{k \in \mathbb{K}} \operatorname{sgn}(\beta_k^{real}) \cdot \beta_k^{sub}}{\sum_{k \in \mathbb{K}} \operatorname{sgn}(\beta_k^{real}) \cdot \beta_k^{real}}, \quad M_2 \equiv \frac{\sum_{k \in \mathbb{K}} |\beta_k^{sub}|}{\sum_{k \in \mathbb{K}} |\beta_k^{real}|},$$

where

- ▶  $\beta_k^{sub}$ : slope coefficient from regressing **survey excess return expectations** on predictor  $k$
  - ▶  $\beta_k^{real}$ : bias-adjusted slope coefficient from regressing **realized excess returns** on predictor  $k$
- ▶ We then average  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  within asset classes (if there are multiple surveys) then across asset classes

## Some variations and summary: Ratios



- ▶ Control and Single: with and without controlling for past excess returns
- ▶ (F): estimates using the full sample
- ▶ (S): estimates using the matched-to-survey sample
- ▶ Sig: using only realized excess return predictors w/  $p < 0.05$ .

# Statistical inference on cyclical wedges

- ▶ Cyclical wedge  $d$ : average difference between realized-return-based and survey-based slope coefficient estimates
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- ▶ Asymptotic inference approach that accounts for different predictors, sample periods, data sets, and measurement frequencies.

# Some variations and summary: Cyclicity wedges

	Full-Sample		Survey-Sample	
	w/o $R_{past}^e$	with $R_{past}^e$	w/o $R_{past}^e$	with $R_{past}^e$
<b>Stock Market</b>	3.56 (0.96)	3.55 (1.01)	3.37 (1.16)	3.09 (1.36)
<b>Treasury Bonds</b>	0.90 (0.35)	0.95 (0.40)	0.40 (0.42)	0.62 (0.45)
<b>Foreign Exchange</b>	3.67 (0.92)	3.76 (1.00)	3.29 (0.93)	3.55 (0.97)
<b>Commodities</b>				
Metals	4.97 (2.27)	4.25 (2.40)	10.43 (2.22)	10.70 (2.46)
Oil	2.54 (1.86)	3.97 (2.64)	3.68 (2.49)	5.95 (3.45)
<b>Composite</b>				
Equal-weighted	2.97 (0.53)	3.09 (0.61)	3.53 (0.66)	3.90 (0.67)
$\sigma^{-1}$ -weighted	2.23 (0.40)	2.31 (0.43)	2.04 (0.44)	2.29 (0.44)

## Comparison with out-of-sample forecasts

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- ▶ What explains the wedge between objective and subjective expected excess return cyclicalities?
- ▶ One possibility: Investors do not know, but learn about DGP parameters from past data
- ▶ Suggests comparison of subjective expectations with **out-of-sample** forecasts of excess returns

# Comparison with out-of-sample forecasts

## 1. Estimate

$$R_k^e = \alpha_{i,t} + \beta_{i,t}x_{i,k-1} + \varepsilon_{i,k}, \quad k = 2, \dots, t.$$

over expanding windows, possibly with unequal weights  $\omega_{t,k}$ ,

$$(\hat{\alpha}_{i,t}, \hat{\beta}_{i,t}) \equiv \underset{\alpha, \beta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{k=2}^t \omega_{t,k} (R_k^e - \alpha - \beta x_{i,k-1})^2.$$

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## 2. Shrink predictive regression forecast toward trailing mean $\bar{R}_t^e$ ,

$$\hat{\mathbb{E}}_{i,t} R_{t+1}^e \equiv s_{i,t}(\hat{\alpha}_{i,t} + \hat{\beta}_{i,t}x_{i,t}) + (1 - s_{i,t})\bar{R}_t^e,$$

where weight  $s_{i,t}$  minimizes past OOS forecast errors until  $t$ ,

$$s_{i,t} = \underset{s}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{k=t_{\min}}^t \omega_{t,k} u_k(s)^2,$$

$$u_k(s) \equiv R_k^e - s(\hat{\alpha}_{i,k-1} + \hat{\beta}_{i,k-1}x_{i,k-1}) - (1 - s)\bar{R}_{k-1}^e.$$

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- ▶ Only for stock and Treasury bond markets we have sufficiently long time series
  - ▶ Construct real-time available version of LN and CYCLE predictors for bond excess returns

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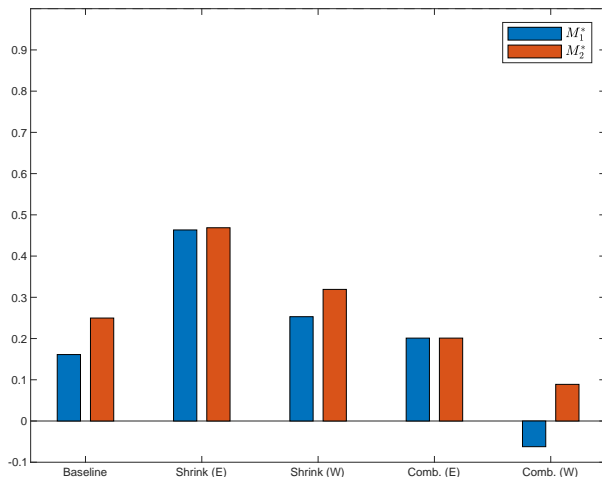
- ▶ Only for stock and Treasury bond markets we have sufficiently long time series
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- ▶ Regress these  $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_{i,t} R_{t+1}^e$  on  $x_{i,t}$ , obtain  $\beta_k^{OOS}$ 
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  - ▶ OOS forecast sample period matched to survey sample periods
- ▶ To summarize, use the same ratios as before but with  $\beta_k^{sub}$  replaced by  $\beta_k^{OOS}$ :

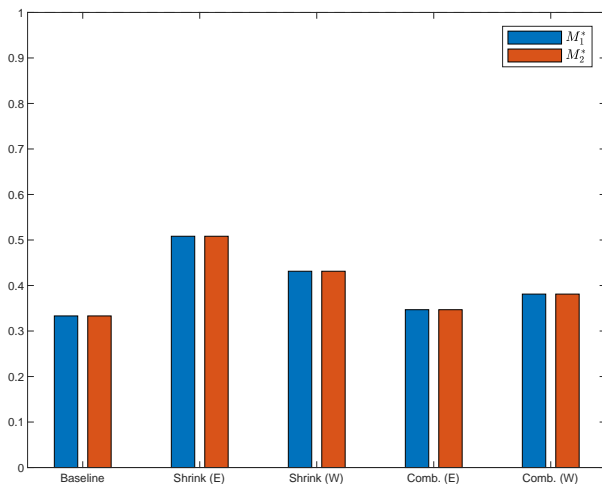
$$M_1^* \equiv \frac{\sum_{k \in \mathbb{K}} \text{sgn}(\beta_k^{real}) \cdot \beta_k^{OOS}}{\sum_{k \in \mathbb{K}} \text{sgn}(\beta_k^{real}) \cdot \beta_k^{real}}, \quad M_2^* \equiv \frac{\sum_{k \in \mathbb{K}} |\beta_k^{OOS}|}{\sum_{k \in \mathbb{K}} |\beta_k^{real}|},$$

## Comparison with out-of-sample forecasts: Stocks



- ▶ E = data equally weighted in forecasting model estimation
- ▶ W = data exponentially weighted as in Nagel and Xu (2022)

# Comparison with out-of-sample forecasts: Bonds



- ▶ E = data equally weighted in forecasting model estimation
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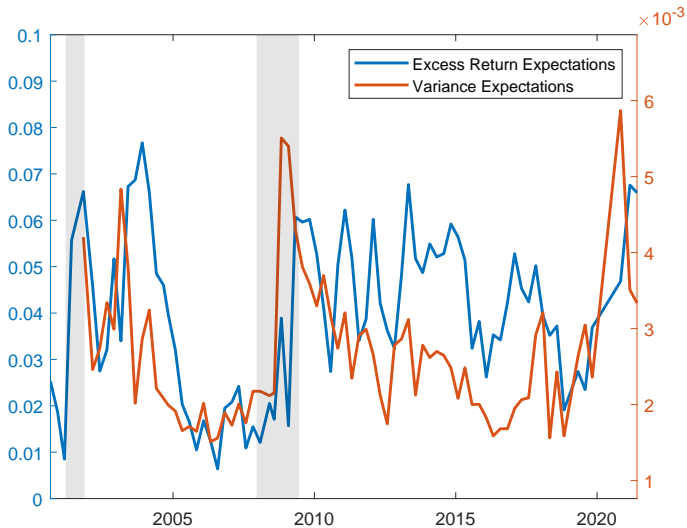
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- ▶ Here: **subjective** risk premia and **subjective** perceptions of risk

# Subjective risk perceptions

- ▶ Proxies for perceived stock market risk (Lochstoer and Muir 2022):
  - ▶ Graham-Harvey CFO survey: subjective assessment of the 10th and 90th pctile of 1y stock market returns
  - ▶ Yale ICF survey (individuals): subjective probability of a “catastrophic” U.S. stock market crash
  - ▶ Yale ICF survey (institutional): subjective probability of a “catastrophic” U.S. stock market crash

# Subjective risk premia and subjective risk perceptions in CFO survey



Excess Return Expectations and Variance Expectations

# Subjective risk premia and subjective risk perceptions

	NX		CFO		Livingston	
Const	0.08	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.19	0.17
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.06)	(0.25)	(0.03)	(0.02)
<b>Crash (Indiv.)</b>	0.38	0.60				
( <i>p</i> -value)	(0.36)	(0.11)				
<b>Var. Exp.</b>			6.72	8.65		
( <i>p</i> -value)			(0.06)	(0.04)		
<b>Crash (Insti.)</b>					2.53	1.76
( <i>p</i> -value)					(0.10)	(0.14)
$R_{past}^e$		1.01		0.74		-2.84
( <i>p</i> -value)		(0.00)		(0.02)		(0.00)
Adj. $R^2$	0.04	0.28	0.12	0.20	0.24	0.40
N	87	86	75	73	39	39



# Conclusion

- ▶ Pervasive lack of cyclical movement of subjective risk premia
  - ▶ Not consistent with standard time-varying risk or risk aversion theories
  - ▶ Swamps other features of return expectations dynamics (e.g., extrapolative/contrarian w.r.t. to recent realized returns)
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- ▶ Some evidence for positive risk-return tradeoff in subjective beliefs, but not aligned with asset price cycles
- ▶ Simultaneously matching volatile asset prices, cyclical objective risk premia, and acyclical subjective risk premia, requires a time-varying wedge between subjective and objective forecasts of fundamentals, e.g.,
  - ▶ Subjective dividend growth for stocks
  - ▶ Subjective interest rate expectations for bonds